

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending and stand rejected in the application. This communication amends claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 15, and cancels claims 17 and 18.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,618,097 to Yamada.

In response, independent claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended to recite that “only one of the first and second edge side portions is substantially enhanced.” Dependent claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, and 15 have been amended to be consistent with the amendments made to their respective independent claims.

Yamada does not expressly or inherently describe a contour detecting circuit that only substantially enhances one of the first and second edge side portions. Accordingly, Yamada does not anticipate independent claims 1, 6, and 11 or any of their respective dependent claims.

Regarding claim 16, Yamada does not expressly or inherently disclose a video signal wherein one of the first and second edge side portions is steepened and the other one of the first and second side edge portions is not steepened, as recited in claim 16.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the 102(e) rejection of claims 1-16 using Yamada is respectfully urged.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested as it is believed that all outstanding issues have been addressed herein and, further, that claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions or matters whose resolution may be advanced by a

telephone call, the examiner is cordially invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

No fees are due with this communication. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17, which are associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,



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